

**Fact Sheet  
February 2003**

# **IT Vine Hill Complex Draft Post Closure Permit Public Comment Period**



**MARTINEZ, CALIFORNIA**

*DTSC is one of six  
Boards and  
Departments within  
the California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency.  
The Department's  
mission is to restore,  
protect and enhance  
the environment,  
to ensure public health,  
environmental  
quality and  
economic vitality,  
by regulating  
hazardous waste,  
conducting and  
overseeing  
cleanups, and  
developing  
and promoting  
pollution prevention.*

**State of California**



**California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency**



## **Introduction**

Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is submitting for public review and comment the Draft Post-Closure Permit for the IT Vine Hill Complex (VHC). The VHC is located on Waterbird Way, near the city of Martinez in Contra Costa County, California. VHC operated as a hazardous waste facility from the early 1960s until it ceased operations in 1989. The Post-Closure Permit describes the process to maintain and monitor the remaining hazardous wastes at the closed VHC. This fact sheet provides information concerning the public comment period, response to comments, site background, Draft Post-Closure permit, the California Environmental Quality Act, information repositories, DTSC contacts, and mailing list information.

## **Public Comment Period and Public Hearing**

The public comment period begins Thursday, February 20, 2003 and ends Saturday, April 5, 2003. Written comments must be postmarked by Saturday, April 5, 2003 and sent to:

Fred Fontus, Project Manager  
DTSC, Region 1  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
[ffontus@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:ffontus@dtsc.ca.gov)

Interested parties can request a public hearing. Hearing requests must be sent to Fred Fontus at the address above and be received by the close of the public comment period. Hearing requests must state the reasons for a public hearing and the issues that would be aired at a public hearing.

## **Response to Comments**

Before making a final permit determination DTSC will review and respond to all public comments in writing in the Response to Comments. Those who submitted comments and those who request a copy will receive the Response to

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov).*

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Comments. A copy of the Response to Comments will be placed in the information repositories listed in this fact sheet. The final permit determination will be public noticed in the Martinez News Gazette and a copy of the notice will be mailed to the VHC mailing list.

## Background

The VHC is located east of the City of Martinez in Contra Costa County. The VHC occupies two connected, noncontiguous properties separated by Pacheco Creek. The sites are referred to individually as the Vine Hill and Baker sites.

The Vine Hill portion of the VHC occupies 41 acres. The Vine Hill portion began handling used oil and municipal wastes in 1951 and chemical waste in the mid-1960s. The 130-acre Baker site was acquired and developed by IT in 1971 and was used for waste reduction via evaporation in surface impoundments.

IT ceased accepting waste in 1987 and ceased hazardous waste, Class I disposal operation in 1989. DTSC approved a Closure Plan for the entire VHC in November 1995 and certification was issued by in June 1999.

Closure of the VHC included:

Waste solidification/drying, consolidation and compaction of waste in two closure cells (one at Vine Hill and one at Baker);

Installation of engineered Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) cover systems;

Installation of groundwater control systems consisting of soil-bentonite cut-off walls and groundwater collection trenches;

Construction of a treatment plant, lined evaporation basins for management of recovered groundwater and leachate, pumping and piping systems to convey liquids to the basins; and

Construction of surface water control systems.

At the Vine Hill site, approximately 200,000 cubic yards of sludges and wastes were solidified using pozzuolanic materials such as fly ash and cement mixed together with soils resulting in soil-like materials that could be compacted. IT also completed construction of the site perimeter soil-bentonite slurry wall and perimeter groundwater collection trench and sumps. To manage recovered groundwater, a 2-cell 6 acre evaporation basin was built. The cover system of low permeability soils and geosynthetic layers includes a passive gas collection design.

At the Baker site, approximately 700,000 cubic yards of waste and contaminated soils were solidified and consolidated into the landfill. A slurry wall and a perimeter groundwater collection trench were also constructed.

## POST CLOSURE OVERVIEW

Because both the Vine Hill and Baker sites have been closed with wastes remaining in place, state and federal regulations require that a post-closure plan for a 30-year period be developed and submitted by the facility. The regulatory requirements of a post-closure plan focus on three primary functions:

- 1) Maintenance of closure structures;
- 2) Environmental monitoring; and
- 3) Maintenance of financial mechanisms to fund the post-closure activities. The above requirements are implemented through a post-closure permit.

The Draft Post-Closure Permit will include procedures to perform the three main tasks. The first function involves the maintenance of the following closure structures:

- (1) Landfill Caps
- (2) Slurry Walls
- (3) Runon/Runoff Controls
- (4) Dewatering System with Appurtenances

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- (5) Evaporation Ponds with Appurtenances
  - (6) Landfill Gas Collection System (Vine Hill only)
  - (7) Monitoring Wells with Appurtenances

The second function is to monitor wastes in place, surface waters and groundwater. In addition, specific requirements for inspections after seismic events are included. Finally, a financial mechanism to ensure available funds throughout the post-closure period will be included in the Post-Closure Permit.

## **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

IT has been exploring options for future uses of both the Vine Hill and Baker sites. Specifically, IT has indicated a desire to utilize all or portions of these properties for storage of construction equipment and/or the installation of a railroad spur. As Title 22, California Code of Regulations allows compatible land uses at closed facilities, DTSC approves the concept of land reuse. For each land reuse application, the post-closure permit will include specific permit conditions to mitigate or prevent any potential environmental impact. Accordingly, DTSC will require IT to obtain a permit modification prior to an actual land reuse. The permit modification is subject to public notice and public review.

## **CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has reviewed the proposed post-closure activities and determined that they will not have an adverse effect on public health and the environment. Therefore, DTSC has exempted this project from CEQA requirements and has prepared a Notice of Exemption (NOE). The NOE is part of the administrative record for this project and a copy will be placed in the information repositories listed in this fact sheet.

## **INFORMATION REPOSITORIES**

The Draft Post-Closure Permit and other site related documents are available for public review at the information repositories listed below. The entire administrative record is available DTSC office at 8800 Cal Center Drive. The administrative record includes copies of the post-closure permit application, Closure/Post-closure plans, the CEQA Notice of Exemption, fact sheets, and other site specific documents.

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826  
Contact: Jennifer Thomas at (916) 255-3560

Martinez Public Library  
740 Court Street  
Martinez, California 94553  
(925) 646-2898

## **Information Contacts**

If you have any questions or would like additional information please contact either:

Fred Fontus  
DTSC, Project Manager  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
(916) 255-3611  
[ffontus@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:ffontus@dtsc.ca.gov)

Randy Sturgeon  
DTSC, Public Participation Specialist  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
(916) 255-3649  
[rsturgeo@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:rsturgeo@dtsc.ca.gov)

## **Media Contact**

If you are a member of the media please contact Angela Blanchette at (510) 540-3732.

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## **Hearing Impaired**

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Randy Sturgeon at (916) 255-3649 regarding the IT Vine Hill Complex.

## ***Mailing List Coupon***

If you did not receive a copy of this fact sheet in the mail and would like to be put on the IT Vine Hill Complex mailing list, please take a moment to fill out the information below and mail it to Randy Sturgeon, DTSC, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California, 95826-3200. DTSC mailing lists are solely for the purpose of keeping persons informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records, and, if requested, may be subject to release.

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code

Phone Number:

Fax Number:

E-Mail: